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AGREEMENT MAY NOW BE REFUTATED

Admiralty Has Relieved Russian Foreign Office in North Sea Dispute and Complications May Arise.

Report Has It That Benckendorff Will Be Made Scapegoat and Probably Recalled.

MATTER REFERRED TO CZAR

One Report Says That Russia Will Maintain the Basis of Agreement, But Will Ask Modification of the British Text.

London, Nov. 17.—The Telegraph's St. Petersburg correspondent, in a telegram printed this morning regarding the outcome of the North sea dispute, asserts that the admiralty has gained the ascendancy, which compels the foreign office to regulate the agreement with Great Britain, and that Count Benckendorff, the Russian ambassador to Great Britain, will be the scapegoat and probably recalled.

Meantime, he adds, negotiations are at a standstill and the matter will be referred to the emperor.

A dispatch to the Reuters Telegram Company from St. Petersburg, however, confirms the Associated Press dispatches to the effect that Russia does not desire to recede from the basis of the agreement, but proposes a modification in the language submitted in the British text, and the Daily Telegraph itself, in an editorial, is inclined to the hope that reference of the matter to the emperor gives promise of satisfactory settlement.

RUSSIANS ARE RESENTFUL.

Do Not Take Kindly to the Expressions of British Jingoists.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 16.—The resentment produced by the speeches by British ministers on the North sea incident, especially the assumption that Russia has agreed to punish the officers of the Russian squadron, in advance of any finding of the commission, has been further inflamed by the speech of Lord Selborne, first lord of the admiralty, November 14, at Bristol, on the danger of a Russian invasion of India.

The Novoe Vremya, while philosophically disposed to hold the British jingoists responsible for this constant provocative attitude, calling attention particularly to Viceroy Curzon's and Lord Kitchener's deputations to Persia and Afghanistan, and disclaiming any desire of Russia to engage in a fight, says that nevertheless Russia always has a chance of evening up British superiority at sea by a move in the direction of India, and, therefore, naturally it is a great comfort to Russia that she has direct military communication with Tashkend.

The Novosti, on the contrary, makes light of the ghost of a Russian invasion of India, which British statesmen are continually talking about, and suggests that it would be better for Great Britain to make sincere overtures to Russia regarding the Indian border, instead of taking refuge behind Afghanistan.

THE NORTH SEA INQUIRY.

Witnesses to Firing Tell of Action of Russian Warships.

Hull, England, Nov. 16.—On the resumption of the board of trade inquiry into the North sea incident today, the witnesses merely corroborated the evidence already known.

The mate of the trawler Oceanic testified that one of the big Russian vessels remained behind after firing, but she did not speak to any of the trawlers, nor did she inquire what injury had been done. After waiting for a half hour she sailed off.

Asked by Dr. Woodhouse, counsel for the Russian embassy, "What were the Russians firing at?" the mate of the

trawler forthwith replied: "At us, I think."

Dr. Woodhouse elicited from another witness that the Russian warships whose searchlights were turned on the trawlers did not fire.

Skipper Haines, of the trawler Moulmein, said that 6 o'clock in the morning after the attack he saw a battleship three ship's lengths away, just like the Russian vessel which fired on the trawlers.

The boatswain of the Moulmein also saw a big ship between 4:15 and 5:30 the morning of October 22. She was much bigger than a torpedo boat, but he could not say if she was a battleship.

Dr. Woodhouse cross-examined this witness, but he stuck to his story, adding that the vessel was not British, but was "particularly like the one which was firing most upon us the night before."

HOTEL OLYMPIA BURNED.

Hard Work Saves Business Portion of Washington Capital.

Olympia, Nov. 16.—The Hotel Olympia, one of the largest frame hotels in the state, was burned to the ground tonight. The fire originated in an unused portion of the basement. The heavy rainfall and the hard work of the firemen and citizens were all that saved the business portion of the city from destruction. Governor McBride was one of the most active of the firefighters. The loss is \$160,000; insurance, \$16,000.

MONTANA VARSITY BEATEN.

Washington Agricultural College Football Team Wins Close Game.

Missoula, Nov. 16.—By a score of 6-5, Washington Agricultural college defeated the Montana varsity team today. The visitors outweighed the local men on the average 15 pounds to the man, but the latter offset the weight with splendid offensive and defensive playing. The visitors got a score in the first half, after securing the ball on a fumble. The local men scored in the second half.

BALLIET PLEADS GUILTY.

Second Trial of Oregon Promoter Comes to Unexpected End.

Des Moines, Nov. 16.—Leston Balliet, who gained notoriety as the promoter of the White Swan Mining Company of Oregon, today suddenly terminated his second trial in the federal court for fraudulently using the mails by pleading guilty to the offense. The first trial two years ago ended in conviction after a hard fight, but a second trial was ordered by the higher courts.

BRECKENRIDGE STRICKEN.

Kentucky Politician Suffering From Attack of Paralysis.

Lexington, Nov. 16.—Ex-Congressman W. C. P. Breckenridge suffered a stroke of paralysis today which paralyzed the right side, and he is unable to speak. Physicians pronounce his condition to be serious, but not immediately critical. Should he suffer another stroke, it is feared the result would be fatal.

Visiting Rulers Banqueted.

London, Nov. 16.—The state banquet at Windsor castle tonight in honor of King Charles and Queen Amelie, of Portugal, equaled in brilliancy all previous magnificent functions at which European rulers were the guests of Great Britain.

Destroyed by Tidal Wave.

Norfolk, Va., Nov. 16.—Advices from the Carolina coast say that the New Inlet life-saving station was destroyed by a tidal wave during Sunday's hurricane. Several men were lost.

Savage Found Guilty.

Portland, Nov. 16.—Louis Savage, the last chief of the Molalla Indians, was today found guilty of murdering Frank Wachene, a fellow Indian, on the Grand Ronde reservation last April, and was sentenced to life imprisonment in the penitentiary.

Thought to Have Been Lost.

Machias, Me., Nov. 16.—The auxiliary schooner Uncas is believed to have sunk off Spruce Island Sunday night, with a crew consisting of three.

Schooner Lost—Four Drowned.

Washington, Nov. 16.—The schooner Missouri capsize off Indian Head Sunday and the captain and the crew of three men were drowned.

RUSSIAN VESSEL BLOWN UP AFTER ESCAPING WITH PORT ARTHUR MESSAGES

Torpedoboot Destroyer Rastoropny Sunk in Chefoo Harbor to Prevent the Japs From Getting Her.

Vessel Undoubtedly Brought Important Dispatches From the beleaguered Fortress, but They Have Not Been Made Public—More Important Fighting Thought to Be Impending Along Shakh River.

Insofar as the contents of the report sent by Stoessel to Emperor Nicholas by the destroyer Rastoropny, which craft was sunk in the harbor at Chefoo after accomplishing the purpose of her dash out of Port Arthur, have come to public knowledge, they serve to indicate that the Russian military commander at Port Arthur regards a crisis in the siege as remote.

Conditions south of Mukden are unchanged, although indications are that important developments will soon be at hand.

DESTROYER BLOWN UP.

Russians Sink Rastoropny After Her Purpose Is Accomplished.

Chefoo, Nov. 16.—The Russians blew up the destroyer Rastoropny this morning. The explosions were scarcely audible 100 yards from the place where they occurred. Almost simultaneously the Rastoropny sank.

BROUGHT NEWS FROM STOESEL.

Japs Satisfied Destroyer Carried Out Hazardous Mission.

Tokio, Nov. 16.—The opinion is expressed here that the Russian destroyer Rastoropny carried Chefoo dispatches explaining to St. Petersburg the situation at Port Arthur.

All the prisoners taken by the Japanese tell the story of the increasing hunger. It is claimed the Russian commanders are divided on the question of continuing the defense. If this is true, it fits the theory that the Rastoropny carried dispatches passing the question to the emperor.

STOESEL STILL DEFIANT.

Reports That He Will Be Able to Hold Out for Some Time.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 16.—Official confirmation is lacking at this hour of the reported blowing up of the torpedoboot destroyer Rastoropny at Chefoo.

The understanding at the admiralty has been that the vessel would be hauled on shore to prevent repetition of the Ryshitelni affair and be disarmed in regular course.

Stoessel's report has not been given out, but the Associated Press understands it contains no request for instructions regarding the surrender of Port Arthur. It is intimated the report goes at considerable length into the details of the recent fierce land fighting, but says the interior line of defense remains intact. Stoessel believes he will be able to withstand the Japanese assault for some time.

Jap Vessels View the Wreck.

Chefoo, Nov. 16.—Three Japanese torpedoboot destroyers entered the harbor this morning, satisfied themselves that the Russian torpedoboot destroyer Rastoropny had been sunk, and then departed.

FRESH BEEF IN EVIDENCE.

Russians Anxious to Make Good Appearance at Chefoo Harbor.

Chefoo, Nov. 16.—Commander Pelem declared that the destroyer's object was simply to carry dispatches. The other Russian ships remained at Port Arthur.

The Rastoropny, being one of the fastest of the Russian vessels, soon outdistanced her pursuers and entered Chefoo with a music-box playing a sprightly air and the savory odor of a breakfast steak apparently testifying to the fact that Port Arthur still enjoys fresh meat. The destroyer sped in like an arrow at 6:50 a. m., and anchored a few hundred yards abait the United States cruiser New Orleans, flagship of Rear Admiral Folger, com-

mander of the cruiser squadron of the Asiatic fleet.

The Chinese cruiser Hai Yung raised steam within 20 minutes and came close to the Rastoropny. Captain Ching of the Hai Yung boarded her and held a brief conference with Commander Pelem. Ensign Wainwright, Rear Admiral Folger's aid, boarded the Rastoropny immediately, but he and Captain Ching were not invited to enter the Rastoropny's cabin, though a blizzard was cutting their faces.

Captain Ching notified Commander Pelem that 24 hours was the limit of time he could remain armed at Chefoo, after which the Rastoropny would be compelled to disarm. While delivering this ultimatum the sailors, who seemed to be healthy and carefree, began to grease the torpedo tubes, which were loaded.

Following the conference with Captain Ching, the Rastoropny was moved further into the old anchorage of the torpedoboot destroyer Ryshitelni where the Russian consul boarded the Rastoropny and brought dispatches ashore.

The Russian officers are all reticent, but they say the condition at Port Arthur is as good as it was two months ago. They also deny the report that the Russian armored cruiser Bayan has been sunk, though they admit that a shell damaged her engines, which are being repaired. Russian cruisers come out of Port Arthur daily, the battleships remaining in the harbor.

The overdrawn optimism of the officers, it was asserted ashore, made it obvious that their story was rehearsed before it was given to the public.

When the correspondents were allowed on board the Rastoropny a quarter of beef was carefully placed where it was impossible to miss seeing it. This, it was claimed, was meant to convey the impression that Port Arthur was snug and comfortable.

During the afternoon the Russian consul officially notified the Taotal that the destroyer had been driven toward Chefoo by a heavy sea, and that it had been decided to disarm her because her machinery had been injured. This is looked upon in some quarters here as the throwing of a transparent veil over the purpose of the vessel's visit.

STOESEL WANTS INSTRUCTIONS

Bold Dash of Vessel Was For That Purpose.

Chefoo, Nov. 16.—It is rumored that the Russian torpedo boat destroyer Rastoropny, which has put into this port, brought a dispatch from General Stoessel asking the St. Petersburg authorities for instructions as to whether he would continue to hold out, awaiting relief, or make immediate arrangements with the Japanese for surrender upon the most advantageous terms possible. This rumor cannot be confirmed, but it is obvious that only dispatches of the highest importance would impel General Stoessel to risk the loss of a warship by sending her out upon such a mission in face of the close blockade maintained off Port Arthur by the Japanese fleet.

JAPS CROSS THE SHAKHE.

Important Engagement Said to Be Impending Near Mukden.

London, Nov. 17.—News from the theater of war in the far east is still scant. The Morning Post's Shanghai correspondent reports that the Japanese crossed the frozen Shakh river and that an important engagement is impending, also that the Port Arthur garrison made a counter attack on the night of November 13 and was driven back with heavy losses. Neither of these reports is confirmed in dispatches

to other morning newspapers.

According to the Standard's Tokio correspondent, none of the Russian artillery at Port Arthur damages the Japanese, except the big naval guns mounted on the batteries ashore.

MORE FIGHTING LIKELY.

Important Developments Looked for in Vicinity of Mukden.

Mukden, Nov. 16.—The general quiet along the Russian line today was varied by occasional artillery exchanges. Fewer skirmishes occurred than for some days past. Reinforcements continue to arrive.

There is reason to believe that important developments will transpire shortly, and possibly heavy fighting.

No reliable news has been received from Port Arthur.

TAKES A MILLION.

111 Subscribers in San Francisco Help Japan.

San Francisco, Nov. 16.—Up to date the sum of \$1,150,000 has been subscribed in this city for the Japanese war loan. There are in all 111 subscribers and the amounts range from \$500 to \$100,000.

Jap Loan Popular.

London, Nov. 15.—Subscriptions to the Japanese loan were closed at noon today. It is said that the bids for the \$30,000,000 offered in London aggregate \$300,000,000.

Stoessel Is Wounded.

London, Nov. 16.—According to a dispatch received here from Chefoo by a news agency, Commander Pelem, of the Russian torpedoboot destroyer Rastoropny, which reached that port today from Port Arthur, confirmed the reports that Lieutenant General Stoessel is wounded, but says General Fock is quite well. The commander added that there were sufficient supplies of food, ammunition and coal at Port Arthur to last a year.

FOOTBALL GAME ARRANGED.

Carlisle and Haskell Will Play Before the President.

St. Louis, Nov. 16.—Arrangements have been completed for a game of football to be played in the stadium on the world's fair grounds between the Carlisle Indians of Pennsylvania and the Haskell Indian School of Kansas on the Saturday following Thanksgiving.

The date set for the game is that upon which President Roosevelt will visit the world's fair and it is expected that he will attend. It will be the first time that gridiron representatives of two Indian government schools have met, and as they are equally matched as regards weight a close game is expected.

NELSON SALVAGE ALLOWED.

Walla Walla Gets \$12,000 and Crew Get \$4000.

San Francisco, Nov. 16.—Those who were of the working force of the steamer Walla Walla, when she picked up the British ship Nelson some time ago in a helpless condition, will now receive their salvage money, which has just been paid in by the owners of the vessel. The amount of salvage allowed was \$12,000 for the steamship company and \$4000 for the crew with interest for one year.

LONG WAR THREATENED.

Two Attempted Murders in San Francisco Indicate Such.

San Francisco, Nov. 16.—Two attempted murders in Chinatown, one of which is almost certain to prove successful, may, it is thought, be the beginning of another Tong war. One was a shooting affair with no serious results and the other was a stabbing case, which is likely to prove fatal. The police believe there may be some connection between the two affairs.

WILL ADVANCE PRICES.

National Machine Tool Builders Have So Decided.

New York, Nov. 16.—Representatives of about 70 of the largest houses in the country are attending the third annual convention of the National Machine Tool Builders' Association in session here. Standardization of parts has been discussed, as well as other trade subjects. According to one of the officials there will be a general advance in prices, owing to the increased cost of the raw material.

ARMED MEN APPREHEND DESPERADO

One of Cody, Wyo., Bank Robbers Reported to Have Been Captured by Poses in Northern Part of State.

Officers Get Drop on Him and Effect His Arrest Without Resort to Their Firearms.

THE MURDERER OF MIDDAGH

Captured Man Fits Description of Bandit Who Shot Down Bank Cashier—Refuses to Tell Where Partner Hides.

Omaha, Nov. 16.—A special dispatch from Cheyenne says that the robbers who held up and killed Cashier Middaugh at Cody have been captured in Northern Wyoming. No details of the capture have been received.

ONLY ONE ROBBER ARRESTED.

Captured Man Believed to Be Murderer of Cashier Middaugh.

Kansas City, Nov. 16.—A special to the Times from Cody, Wyo., says:

"According to news from Thermopolis, only one man was captured. This was the larger of the two men who robbed the Thermopolis saloon. The man appears to fit description of the man who shot Cashier Middaugh."

"The officers who arrested him rode cautiously upon the ruffian and succeeded in getting the drop on him before he was aware of their presence. Upon being questioned as to his identity and the whereabouts of his partner he refused to utter a word."

NEWLANDS OR PARDEE.

One of Them Will Be President of Irrigation Congress.

El Paso, Nov. 16.—Aside from the technical information brought out today at the meeting of the irrigation congress the sessions were devoid of interest. The Mexican delegates are enthusiastic over the prospect of being officially recognized by the convention. It is understood they will return to organize a congress for Mexico, but want affiliation with this congress also.

The address of Commander Booth-Tucker was read today and a letter from President Roosevelt. The latter aroused much enthusiasm. Senator Newlands, of Nevada, and Governor Pardee, of California, are most frequently mentioned for the office of president of the congress.

POLITICS IS FORGOTTEN.

Democrats and Republicans Congratulate the Vice President Elect.

Indianapolis, Nov. 16.—Political aspirations and affiliations were forgotten tonight, when several hundred representative men of the Republican and Democratic parties assembled at the Commercial Club to congratulate Vice President-elect Fairbanks.

John W. Kern, Democratic nominee for governor, sat side by side with Senators Beveridge and Fairbanks, and the combination added to the enthusiasm when the leaders of the two parties engaged in friendly political repartee. Kern acted as chairman of the meeting.

CHINESE REBELS ACTIVE.

Repulse Imperial Troops and Capture Five Big Towns.

Shanghai, Nov. 16.—The rebels have repulsed the imperial troops at Lu-chowfu, in the province of Kwangsi, Southern China, and captured Yuen-chien, Tien-hsien, Lo-cheng-shien, Haul-yen-shien and Liuchen, five of the principal towns in the province. Merchants and bankers fled from the towns.

Chou Fu, the former governor of the province of Shantung, recently appointed viceroy of Nanking, has been ordered to proceed immediately to his post to take measures to check the rebels in the Yangtze valley.